| | Case 06-10725-gwz Doc 9939 Entered | 04/14/15 11:40:46 Page 1 of 10 | | | | |
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| 7 | | | | | | |
| 8 | UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT | | | | | |
| 9 | DISTRICT OF NEVADA | | | | | |
| 10 | In re: | Chapter 11 | | | | |
| 11 | USA Commercial Mortgage Company, | Case No.: BK-S-06-10725-GWZ | | | | |
| 12 13 | Debtor. | USACM Liquidating Trust Quarterly Post Confirmation Report for Period Ending March 31, 2015 | | | | |
| 14 | The USACM Liquidating Trust Quarterly Post Confirmation Report by Geoffrey Berman, Trustee for period ending March 31, 2015, is attached hereto. | | | | | |
| 15 | | | | | | |
| 16 | DATED this 14th day of April, 2015. | | | | | |
| 17 | LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER LLP | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | | | |
| 19 | By: <u>s/ Robert M. Charles, Jr. (#6593)</u> Robert M. Charles, Jr. NV 6593 Attorneys for USACM Liquidating Trust | | | | | |
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POST-CONFIRMATION REPORT OF GEOFFREY L. BERMAN, TRUSTEE USACM LIQUIDATING TRUST

April 2015



USACM Liquidating Trust

Geoffrey L. Berman, Trustee Matthew P. Sorenson Email: gberman@dsi.biz msorenson@dsi.biz

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Trust

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QUARTERLY POST-CONFIRMATION REPORT OF GEOFFREY L. BERMAN, TRUSTEE USACM LIQUIDATING TRUST

April 2015

As Trustee, I have continued to focus the efforts of the USACM Liquidating Trust (the "Trust") during the period October 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015 on:

- Placer receivership issues;
- administration of the Trust, bringing it to an acceptable conclusion; and
- efficient conclusion of the USA Commercial Mortgage Company ("USACM") estate.

These and other topics are briefly described in this report, along with comments on the financial statement of the Trust.¹

I. TRUST ADMINISTRATION

A. Website

The Trust terminated the website as an expense that was no longer justified after consultation with the Oversight Committee.

B. Trust Extension

On an unopposed motion, the Court entered an order after a hearing on February 4, 2014, extending the termination date of the Trust to March 15, 2016. No further extensions will be sought. The USACM Trust Committee may direct the Trustee to terminate the Trust in a shorter time frame subject to ongoing developments discussed below.

C. Trust Committee

The Trust functions with a Trust Committee created by the Debtors' Third Amended Plan of Reorganization as modified and the Trust Agreement. The current members of the Trust Committee are Donald Walker, James Bonfiglio, Michael Tucker (in his capacity as Administrator of the USA Capital Diversified Trust Deed Fund, LLC ("DTDF")), Suzanne Nounna, and Janet Chubb and Ken Bonnet, a client representative from the Kehl

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¹ The Trust's financial statement is provided only to the Office of the United States Trustee and the Trust Committee.

family (jointly). The Trust Committee meets by telephone conference call to discuss the status of the Trust, the Trustee's prior quarterly reports, and other issues.

D. Trust Staff and Counsel

The Trustee is employed by Development Specialists, Inc. ("DSI"). The Trustee uses DSI staff to administer the Trust, investigate the assets and liabilities of the Trust, and to support the litigation described below.

In addition, and as has previously been reported, the Trustee selected Robert M. Charles, Jr. of Lewis Roca Rothgerber LLP³, prior counsel to the USACM Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, as its counsel. Other attorneys at that firm assist the Trust as well, including John Hinderaker, who directed claims and other Trust specific litigation.

Separate litigation counsel, Allan Diamond of Diamond McCarthy LLP, Houston, TX, was selected by the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors and approved by the Court in January 2007, whose retention was assumed by the Trust upon the Effective Date of the Plan and the Trust.

E. Creditor Inquiries

Both the Trustee and the Trust's counsel receive periodic inquiries from direct lenders concerning servicing, tax issues, pre-paid interest and other questions related to their interests in the Trust. Both the Trustee and the counsel have made every effort to respond to each such inquiry, although often the Trust is not in a position to provide a specific answer, since the Trust cannot provide lenders with legal or tax advice. The Trustee and counsel also make every effort to respond on a timely basis to direct lenders and other creditors with questions related to objections to loans and claims as those objections are being processed. The Trust has also been addressing questions from direct lenders who have received checks for their recently allowed claims, as a result of the continuing process of addressing the remaining disputed direct lender proofs of claim.

II. USACM ISSUES

As of its most recent report, USACM in liquidation was holding no assets. The Trust has been paying the expenses of keeping the USACM bankruptcy case open pending disposition of the remaining material assets of the Trust. The Trustee made the decision to seek the closing of the USACM bankruptcy case and sought this relief from the court.

2

² Information about Mr. Berman is available from the DSI website at http://www.dsi.biz/onestaff.asp?id=39.

³ Lewis and Roca LLP changed its name to Lewis Roca Rothgerber LLP effective September 1, 2013.

At a hearing on February 4, 2014, on the Trust's Motion for Final Decree and to close estate, the Court indicated that the case could not be closed until all pending adversary proceedings had been resolved. There are no adversary proceedings pending to which the Trust is a party, but there are adversary proceedings pending that are related to the bankruptcy case. Accordingly, solely for administrative reasons, the bankruptcy case is not closed, the Trust will continue to pay the minimal expense associated with keeping the bankruptcy case open, until the pending adversary proceedings are resolved.

The Court reassigned the bankruptcy case to the Hon. Gregg W. Zive, District of Nevada, on January 6, 2015.

III. INVESTIGATING AND PROSECUTING CAUSES OF ACTION AGAINST POTENTIAL TARGET DEFENDANTS

Diamond McCarthy as special litigation counsel to the Trust actively conducted formal and informal discovery of files, witnesses and transactions since its informal engagement in January 2007, which was formalized once the Plan went effective in March 2007. The goals were to develop and then prosecute causes of action against insiders and third parties to recover damages for the benefit of creditors. In addition, special litigation counsel identified assets diverted by insiders and their affiliates so that the assets can be recovered to generate payment for creditors. Diamond McCarthy was lead counsel on the Trust's litigation. All such actions have been concluded to judgment or dismissal.

IV. PRESERVING INSIDER ASSETS AND ADVOCATING TRUST INTERESTS IN OTHER BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS

A. Thomas Hantges

The remaining open issue concerning Mr. Hantges is the Trust's ownership of certain term life insurance policies.

| Thomas Hantges Life Insurance Policies as of May 1, 2013 | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| Insured: | Thomas A. Hantges | Thomas A. Hantges | Thomas A. | | |
| | | | Hantges | | |
| Policy Issued by: | Lincoln Benefit Life | West Coast Life | Lincoln Benefit | | |
| | Insurance Co. | Insurance Company | Life Insurance Co. | | |
| | | | | | |
| Policy Number: | 01T1048572 | Z01221131 | 01T1048572 | | |
| Premium: | \$2,230.20 | \$12,490.40 | \$8,260.00 | | |
| Frequency: | Quarterly | Semi-Annual | Annual | | |
| Coverage Amount: | \$5,000,000 | \$8,500,000 | \$2,500,000 | | |

The Trust worked with DTDF on monetizing the Trust's interest in the term life insurance policies without continued need to make premium payments indefinitely. The Trust sought to enter into an arm's length agreement to sell the Trust's interest in the

policies to a third party for compensation after bidding among potential interested parties. No proposals were received. The policies do not have cash surrender value. The Trust does not anticipate expending additional funds to make premium payments, so the policies will lapse.

B. Salvatore Reale

Prior to the Effective Date, USACM sued Salvatore J. Reale, individually and as trustee of the Salvatore J. Reale Revocable Trust in the Bankruptcy Court. The adversary proceeding is Adv. No. 06-01251.

After a trial on January 31, 2008, the Bankruptcy Court determined on March 28, 2008 that judgment should be entered in favor of the Trust and against Mr. Reale for \$4 million, plus an award of the Trust's taxable costs. The Trust filed a motion seeking pre- and post-judgment interest, which motion was granted by the Bankruptcy Court after a hearing on May 8, 2008. The Trust obtained judgment on May 13, 2008.

The Trust has made every effort possible to collect the \$4 million judgment against Salvatore Reale, including seeking post-judgment discovery, filing a motion to compel compliance with the discovery requests, and negotiating with Mr. Reale on a possible settlement. Efforts to recover on the judgment have been complicated by a temporary restraining order against Mr. Reale in another matter, as well as an obligation to the Internal Revenue Service and the fact that one of the borrowers to whom Mr. Reale made a loan has subsequently filed their own chapter 7 bankruptcy. While Mr. Reale has cooperated with the Trust in efforts to recover from this borrower's bankruptcy estate and thereby reduce the outstanding judgment due the Trust however Mr. Reale has made no payments in partial or full satisfaction of the judgment and has continuously advised that he has no ability to repay any portion of the judgment.

C. Monaco

The Trust obtained a stipulated judgment against Anthony and Susan Monaco for receipt of fraudulent transfers in the amount of \$5.5 million. A receiver was appointed to aid in collection of the judgment amount when the Monacos were uncooperative in repaying the judgment. The Receiver was also appointed receiver of other business enterprises of the Monaco's where assets were transferred. The Receiver's efforts to date have resulted in some small recoveries, however it appears that the majority of the judgment may have little value.

D. Other Judgments

The Trust owns interests in certain other judgments, including judgments arising out of the USA Investment Partners case. The value of these judgments is not expected to be significant. The Trustee is seeking alternatives for disposition of the remaining judgments in order to return cash for distribution to creditors.

V. PROOFS OF CLAIM AND CLAIMS OBJECTIONS

A. Overview

The deadline set pursuant to the Plan for the Trust to object to claims has expired.

The final allowed amount of creditor claims in the Trust is approximately \$203.8 million; \$789.8 million in claims have been disallowed.

B. Change of Address/Change of Ownership

The Trust periodically receives requests for change of address and makes every reasonable attempt to accommodate those requests. In addition, beneficiaries often request to change legal title or ownership of their interests in the Trust. The Trust has generally requested some form of documentation for such requests, but makes no representation or warranty that such transfers are legally effective or otherwise appropriate. The beneficiaries need to discuss such matters with their counsel.

C. Contact Information

For an inquiry on your proof of claim, or a change of address for an allowed claim, please contact:

Renee Creswell Lewis Roca Rothgerber LLP (520) 629-4472

Email: RCreswell@LRRLaw.com

D. General Inquiries

The Trust periodically receives inquiry from lien creditors, borrowers or lenders on loans to be serviced by Compass or its successors. The Trust, as a courtesy, makes every effort to direct the inquiry to the appropriate person handling servicing of the loan. Similarly, the Trust periodically receives subpoenas, requests for production and other formal and informal discovery requests for review of the business records of USACM, some of which the Trust holds as successor to USACM. Again, the Trust cooperates with those discovery requests, at the requesting party's reasonable expense.

VI. LOAN SERVICING ISSUES

A. Placer Vineyards

The balances of the Notes by Placer County Land Speculators, LLC as Borrower to Direct Lenders on loans serviced by the Trust were as follows as of December 22, 2008 (the foreclosure date):

| | Placer 1 | Placer 2 |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Principal | \$31,500,000.00 | \$6,500,000.00 |
| Interest | 15,183,487.95 | 4,134,138.22 |
| Default Interest | 9,111,393.85 | 1,035,761.89 |
| Late Fees | 2,334,174.40 | 531,706.91 |
| Total | \$58,129,056.20 | \$12,201,607.02 |

The Trust filed a complaint and a motion for appointment of a receiver for the Placer 1 Loan in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada on September 24, 2008 and assigned case no. 2:08-cv-1276. The case was assigned to United States District Judge Kent J. Dawson.

The receivership motion was heard by the Honorable Kent J. Dawson on December 3, 2008. At the hearing, Judge Dawson directed the appointment of Elli Mills as Receiver. The Trust thereafter worked with counsel for interested parties and Mr. Mills on entry of an appropriate order directing the appointment of a receiver. The District Court's order appointing the receiver was entered on December 16, 2008.

The Receiver subsequently investigated and made the decision to conclude the foreclosure sale, which had been continued to December 22, 2008. The Receiver directed a credit bid of \$8,404,030 at the December 22, 2008 foreclosure sale.

Prior to the appointment of a receiver, the Trust continued to work with interested Direct Lenders on issues concerning the Loan and the Property, including whether to take an appeal of the valuation of the Property for real estate tax purposes.

The Trust continues to work with the Placer 1 Receiver both with respect to the Trust's claims as servicer as well as in attempting to assist the Receiver in the performance of his duties.

The Receiver sought authority from the receivership court to enter into interim financing to cover the expenses of the receivership. The Trust is monitoring those proceedings to protect the status of the servicer advance in 2007 and a claim for sums advanced as servicer for legal fees and foreclosure expenses, as well as a servicing fee. The Receiver has advised the supervising court of what it believes may be potential claims against the Trust related to the servicing fees and servicer advance. The Trust, through its counsel,

has been discussing the purported claims; and as of release of this report, no claims have in fact been asserted against the Trust related to the servicing fees and/or servicer advance nor is there any agreement as to the amounts to be repaid to the Trust.

On February 19, 2015, the receivership court entered an order granting a motion filed by the Receiver to obtain interim financing. The purpose of the financing was to carry the property, including interest on the loan and receivership expenses, for approximately 24 months. After negotiating with interested lenders, the Receiver settled upon an offer to borrow \$4,750,000 principal from John Terry of Glennwood, Nevada, for 24 months at 12% interest plus payment of a 5 point origination fee. The loan includes an interest reserve to pay the interest costs associated with the financing.

On April 2, 2015, the Receiver filed a Verified Special Report of Laella M.A. Mills, Receiver and the Receiver had previously filed a report on March 3, 2015. Those reports generally disclose that the Receiver continues to attempt to dispose of the receivership asset by holding the property, listing it for sale, but anticipating that some additional development activity will be required to obtain market value for the property. An appraisal was obtained from CBRE Appraisal Services suggesting the value of the Placer property was \$16,900,000 as of October 2014. The Receiver obtained a small grazing lease to help defer expense, which also provides liability insurance without expense to the Receiver. The Receiver's periodic reports also detail the current status of development permits from the Army Corps of Engineers, Placer County, the Fish and Wildlife Service of the United States Department of Interior, and a regional general permit.

Resolution of the Trust's claims against the receivership is the primary impediment to final liquidation of the Trust and disposition of Trust assets.

The Trust has been negotiating with the Receiver for resolution of the Trust's claims against the receivership in order to monetize the Trust's rights prior to expiration of the Trust's term. The Receiver is drafting a settlement proposal, however no progress has been made to date with the Receiver or his counsel in this regard.

VII. TRUST FINANCIAL STATEMENT

A Trust financial statement showing the status of the Trust's finances as of February 28, 2015, has been provided to the Trust Committee. Additional financial statements will be prepared and forwarded to the Trust Committee as they become available.